

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SIL-01 LAB-01 COME-00 INR-05
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6171
INFO USMISSION USUN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2234

LIMDIS

CARACAS FOR HOROWITZ

PASS LABOR FOR SECY MARSHALL, SAMUEL, QUACKENBUSH, AVERY
AND LINDSENMAIER

PASS COMMERCE FOR SECY KREPS AND UPTON

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ILO
SUBJ: ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL REQUESTS HIGH LEVEL APPOINTMENTS
DURING WASHINGTON VISIT IN MAY

1. SUMMARY: ILO DG BLANCHARD WILL BE IN WASHINGTON
DURING WEEK OF MA 2 TO CONFER WITH AFL-CIO PRESIDENT
MEANY AND WITH CHARLES SMITH OF THE U.S. CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE. BLANCHARD HAS REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS WITH
PRESIDENT CARTER AND VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND OTHER
MEMBERS OF "THE NEW U.S. TEAM". MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS
ARE IN PARA FOUR BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ILO OFFICE IN WASHINGTON WILL SEEK APPOINTMENTS
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FOR BLANCHARD WITH SECRETARIES VANCE, MARSHALL AND
KREPS AND WITH ASST SECY MAYNES. ACCORDING TO
BERNARD FORTIN, BLANCHARD'S CHEF DE CABINET, BLANCHARD
WOULD ALSO LIKE TO PAY COURTESY CALLS ON PRESIDENT
CARTER AND VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE SO THAT "THOSE
WHO WILL MAKE THE DECISION ON FUTURE U.S. PARTICIPATION
IN ILO WILL AT LEAST KNOW THE FACE OF THE DIRECTOR

GENERAL". FORTIN SAID BLANCHARD WOULD NOT MAKE A SUBSTANTIVE APPEAL AT THE WHITE HOUSE OR ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE U.S. DECISION ON ILO, WHICH BLANCHARD KNOWS WILL BE MADE AFTER THE JUNE SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE.

3. WE TOLD FORTIN WE WOULD PASS BLANCHARD'S REQUEST TO WASHINGTON BUT WERE NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT WHITE HOUSE APPOINTMENTS. FORTIN DID NOT ASK US WHY BUT REPEATED THAT DG WAS ASKING FOR COURTESY CALLS. BLANCHARD WILL BE BACK IN GENEVA NEXT WEEK AND WE EXPECT HIM TO REPEAT FORTIN'S REQUEST.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS: BLANCHARD HAS TWOFOLD PURPOSE IN WASHINGTON: TO STATE THE CASE FOR THE U.S. REAMINING IN ILO AND TO SEEK SUPPORT IN HIS CAMPAIGN FOR A SECOND TERM AS DIRECTOR GENERAL. SINCE AT THIS TIME WE CANNOT GIVE HIM ANSWERS ON EITHER POINT, WE SEE NO U.S. ADVANTAGE IN A WHITE HOUSE APPOINTMENT FOR BLANCHARD. IF SECRETARIES VANCE, MARSHALL AND KREPS ARE AVAILABLE, WE RECOMMEND THEY SEE BLANCHARD, AT LEAST FOR A COURTESY CALL AND IF PRACTICABLE FOR REPRESENTATIONAL LUNCH. BEFORE MEETING WITH CABINET OFFICERS, BLANCHARD WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE REPORTED TO ASST SECY MAYNES AND TO CABINET LEVEL COMMITTEE COUNSELOR HOROWITZ ON WHAT HE SAW AT AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN TRIPOLI DURING WEEK OF APRIL 25; THE AFRICANS MAY DECIDE THEIR STRATEGY DURING THE JUNE CONFERENCE AT THIS MEETING.
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